

EAST PROVIDENCE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

East Providence City Hall

145 Taunton Avenue

East Providence, Rhode Island 02914

December 9, 2008

Open Session

Mr. Carcieri called the meeting to order at 6:00PM. School Committee Members present: Luisa Abatecola, Shannon Barbosa, Robert Faria, Steven Santos, Anthony Carcieri. Also present: Dr. Mario Cirillo, Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Edward Daft, Assistant Superintendent, and Sara Rapport, Esq. A motion was made by Mr. Faria to move to executive session in accordance with R.I. General Laws, Section 42-46-5 (a) (1) Collective Bargaining: Teachers Contract and (a) (2) Litigation, seconded by Mrs. Barbosa . Vote 5-0.

A motion was made by Mr. Faria to return to open session and to seal the minutes of the executive session, seconded by Mr. Santos. Vote 5-0.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and a Moment of Silence was observed.

Record of Previous Meetings – A motion was made by Mr. Faria to

approve the minutes of the meetings held on September 9, 2008, September 24, 2008, October 14, 1008 and December 1, 2008, seconded by Mrs. Barbosa. Vote 5-0.

Student/Teacher Recognition – Mr. Barham recognized and presented certificates to Cassandra Santiago a 4th Grade student at Silver Spring, for her participation in a statewide art contest and Nick Lusignan, a sophomore at East Providence High School for his participation in a military leadership conference.

Chairs Report – Erin Butler, student liaison, presented a report on high school activities and events.

School Committee Comments – Mr. Faria encouraged everyone to attend holiday concerts at the schools to show community support.

Sub-Committee – Mr. Faria requested the School Committee approve his request for a health care audit; he made a motion to direct the Superintendent to do the preparation and put this together; (who is receiving benefits), seconded by Mr. Santos. Vote 5-0.

Personnel Recommendations – Superintendent's Recommendations were presented by Mr. Barham, Director of Human Resources:

APPOINTMENTS

New Employees (All Resulting from budgeted vacancies)

Steven Fratiello Controller/Business Finance

Michelle Malmstrom Special Ed, Resource-Martin Middle School

Michelle Lamothe Nurse/Teacher – Waddington Elementary

Klara Benzigerne Supervisory Assistant – Hennessey

Extracurricular Stipend Positions

Cathy Medina E-Portfolio Coordinator –EPHS

Elizabeth Pacheco International Club Adviser - EPHS

Myra Maini Spanish Club Adviser - EPHS

Patricia Hawksley VLA – Senior Project Advisor – EPHS

Keith Martinous Tech Advisor – EPHS

Nelia Milhomens Head Teacher – Whiteknact Elementary

Candace Andrade Tech Advisor – Francis Elementary

Sheri Mancinho Co-Tech Advisor - Oldham

Bernadette Moonan Co-Tech Advisor - Oldham

Athletic Stipend Positions

Robert Geremia Asst. Coach, Hockey – EPHS

William McEnery Head Coach, Golf – EPHS

Gary Faragalli Coach, Girl's Basketball – RMS

Daniel Silva Head Coach, Boy's Soccer - EPHS

Robert Blakley Head Coach, Wrestling – MMS

Christopher Whorf Coach - Girl's Track – RMS

Laurie Tubman Coach – Boy's Track –RMS

Motion: Mrs. Barbosa/Second: Mr. Faria. Vote 5-0

RETIREMENTS

Elaine Nunes (17 ½ years) Bus Assistant

Effective October 31, 2008

Motion: Mr. Santos/Second: Mr. Faria. Vote 5-0.

RESIGNATIONS

Priscilla Sousa Head Teacher Position – Whiteknact Elementary

Jesse Bartlett Custodian – Administration Building

Kevin Costa Custodian – Silver Spring

Lisa Poirier Supervisory Assistant – Waddington

Laurie Tubman Coach – Boy's Track – MMS

Motion: Mr. Faria/Second: Mrs. Barbosa. Vote 5-0.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Kristin Ricci Business Teacher, East Providence High School

Parental Leave – Remainder 08/09 School Year

Kerri Scandura Physical Education Teacher, Martin Middle

Parental Leave - Remainder 08/09 School Year

Kristin Bovi Pallotta Physical Education Teacher, EPHS

FMLA – 13 weeks

Motion: Mr. Santos/Second: Mrs. Abatecola. Vote 5-0.

Financial Report – Mr. Jerome Baron advised that checks we are holding amount to about \$4 million and we are still getting bills in; we have overspent \$3 million and still have the end of year payroll; this amounts to about \$4 million in deficit spending. The special education budget is \$2.4 million over the budgeted amount and health insurance is over a million dollars more than budgeted.

Awarding of Bids – Replacement of external doors at East Providence High School. Proposals were sent to 17 vendors with responses from 9. Mr. Baron, Director of Administration and Finance recommended the bid be awarded to Maron Construction Company for a total bid price of \$149,900.00. Dr. Cirillo reviewed the terms of bid. The Business Manager, Mr. Baron, recommended awarding the bid to Maron Construction; even though we do not have the funds. Since the high school has been designated as a city shelter for emergency evacuate, a grant award of \$33,000 may provide for some of the funding. This is not a safety issue, but there is a concern about the school not being up to code. The Superintendent requested approval pending receipt of the federal grant; the bid is good for 30 days and the Finance Director would like to have the window of opportunity if the money becomes available. Mr. Baron advised that we could negotiate an extension on the bid; Mr. Faria asked if we could go back to Maron to lock it in. A motion was made by Mr. Faria to award the bid pending available funding, seconded by Mrs. Abatecola. Mr. Faria said this is long overdue and hopes the city will be able to help, as we

need every dollar we can find. Vote 5-0.

Field Trip Request – A motion was made by Mr. Faria to approve a request for the high school chorus to travel to Washington D.C. in April 2009, seconded by Mr. Santos. Vote 5-0. Dr. Caswell assured the Committee that sufficient chaperones would be in place.

Home School – None

High School Mission Statement – Dr. Cirillo explained that the School Committee previously approved the High School Program of Studies; however, NEASC did not recognize that action as covering standards and he recommended that the School Committee endorse the Mission Statement of East Providence High School. The Principal, Dr. Caswell, reviewed the Mission Statement. A motion was made by Mr. Faria to approve the request, seconded by Mrs. Barbosa. Vote 5-0.

Educational Program Report – Mr. Edward Daft presented a report on professional development in the schools to help support teachers. Mrs. Beth Salzillo, District Reading Supervisor, provided an overview of professional development activities which focus on key areas to help improve student achievement. Mr. Daft advised that East Bay Collaborative also provides professional development opportunities; the state is arranging teams for math, science and technology for elementary and to address issues with NECAP and students for Grade 8 and high school. Mr. Faria asked about documentation from

NEASC and to place this item on the next agenda so the final recommendations can be shared.

Unfinished Business – None

New Business

2009 School Committee Meetings – A motion was made by Mrs. Abatecola to approve the schedule of 2009 meetings, seconded by Mr. Faria 5-0. Discussion: Mr. Faria asked for a second meeting per month as he felt there is a need to separate educational issues from business issues. Mr. Santos is still open to it but needs to discuss it more, since joint meetings may be held with the City Council. Mr. Carcieri asked to work with the second Tuesday of the month meetings and keep flexible for multiple meetings, since the School Committee has always called additional meetings if necessary. Mr. Faria does not disagree, but sees it as an opportunity for education. Mrs. Barbosa suggested additional meetings quarterly or every other month. Mr. Santos noted that the April 21, 2009 meeting (moved to third week due to school vacation) may be a problem since it conflicts with City Council meeting. Vote 5-0.

Placement Promotion and Retention Policy – Dr. Cirillo advised that recommended changes have been inserted to include state mandated language on new regulations for high school graduation.

Mr. Daft reviewed the changes highlighted in bold in the policy. Mr.

Santos asked about the language regarding partially proficient which does not seem to be a lofty goal for students. Mr. Daft said these are state goals for minimum requirements. A motion was made by Mrs. Abatecola for first passage, seconded by Mr. Faria. Vote 5-0.

Anti Bullying Policy – Dr. Cirillo advised that language has been added on cyber bullying. Mr. Daft explained the need to address this issue which is slowly turning up in schools. Motion by Mrs. Barbosa for first passage, seconded by Mr. Faria. Vote 5-0. Upon completion this policy will be added to school handbooks. Mr. Faria asked that the schools receive information regarding resources to help provide additional information on this issue to schools.

School Committee Assignments – Dr. Cirillo recommended amending the bylaws regarding subcommittees; he will be prepared for recommendations at next meeting. He requested approval to look at this issue since the present subcommittees are outdated and the School Committee needs to entertain changes. A motion was made by Mr. Faria for first passage, seconded by Mrs. Abatecola. Vote 5-0.

Discussion: Mr. Santos was unclear about the action; this would take two passages after this. Dr. Cirillo would like to refine this down to 4 or 5 committees. Mr. Carcieri would like working committees that mean something.

Payment of Bills

November 12, 2008 Bill List

Warrant #000863 11/6/08 \$ 88,346.60

Motion: Mr. Faria/Mr. Santos. Vote 5-0.

Warrant #000864 11/6/08 \$ 1,954,877.77

Motion: Mr. Faria/Second: Mrs. Barbosa Vote 5-0.

Warrant #000865 11/13/08 \$1,200,033.01

Motion: Mr. Faria/Second: Mrs. Abatecola. Vote 5-0

December 9, 2008 Bill List

Warrant #000868 12/05/08 \$ 1,798,413.25

Motion: Mr. Faria/Second: Mrs. Abatecola. Vote 5-0.

Warrant #000869 12/05/08 \$ 60,060.94

Motion: Mr. Faria/Second: Mr. Santos. Vote 5-0.

Public Comment

Diana Neves asked for information as to what items were being paid. Mr. Baron advised that the School Committee receives in advance of the meeting, a total list of bills for supplies, utilities, and other items.

Bob Enos commented on the \$4.6 million deficit; he asked what

budget is being used, the city of school department number. Mr. Carcieri explained that he wanted people to have the ability to state concerns, but that this questioning catches people off guard and not prepared to respond. Mr. Enos felt that people should be able to come up and ask questions; his purpose is to educate the community on what is happening in the School Department. He believes we are looking at an \$18 million deficit and there are three ways to solve it: control expenses, regionalization and consolidation of jobs. The Superintendent and City Mgr. should make public what has been proposed so far. He does not feel that the past School Committee has done justice to the students; we should direct the Superintendent to find out what we can regionalize, which will fall into the consolidation. The School Committee should work on it and people should be able to come up and ask questions to make the public aware.

Joan Perry, Centre Street asked about parental leave. Mr. Barham explained by contract an employee can request a leave for a year at a time or for the remainder of the school year and that the FMLA provides 13 weeks of leave.

Mrs. Perry had a concern regarding the high school students' portfolios and what would happen if summer school is not affordable for the student.

Leslie Logan spoke regarding the bill list and that it had been the

past practice of the School Committee to provide a general categorization of how money is being spent with a break down under general categories. She had no idea what the money was for under the Payment of Bills.

Mr. Carcieri asked to have the bill list posted at the next meeting.

A motion was made by Mrs. Barbosa to adjourn at 8:50 PM, seconded by Mrs. Abatecola. 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Iannelli, Administrative Assistant

Shannon Barbosa, Clerk of the Committee